## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HARRISON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

RILEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY, a West Virginia corporation,

Plaintiff,

v.

NORTHSTAR ENERGY CORPORATION, A West Virginia corporation,

Civil Action Mor 15 C 4 15 2 s
Hon. James A. Matish, Judge
Upon Motion To Refer Case To
Business Court Division

Defendant.

## RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO REFER CASE TO BUSINESS COURT

Comes now the Defendant, Northstar Energy Corporation ("Northstar"), by its counsel Stephen L. Thompson, and by way of its Response to the Motion To Refer the captioned case to the Business Court Division would say as follows:

- 1. In response to the statements of the Court that the essence of the dispute between the parties involves a contract for the delivery of natural gas, and allegations of breach of the said contract governing the obligations of the parties, Northstar admits the same.
- 2. Although the caption of the case would lead the Court to believe that this is a matter between two business entities, and therefore upon its face would appear to be the sort of matter which the Business Court was established to resolve, Northstar denies that this assumption or appearance is accurate.
- 3. Northstar would advise the Court that it is, in fact, a corporation with a single shareholder and director, and is, in essence, operated essentially as a proprietorship.

- 4. Northstar believes that the objects of the Business Court to resolve disputes among or between business entities will not be furthered by the referral of this matter to the Business Court division.
- 5. Northstar requests that this Court deny the Motion, and further requests that this matter be resolved by the Honourable James A. Matish in the Circuit Court of Harrison County, West Virginia.

WHEREFORE, Northstar Energy Corporation requests that this Court deny the Motion and return this matter to the Circuit Court of Harrison County, West Virginia, to the docket of the Honourable James A. Matish for further proceedings.

NORTHSTAR ENERGY CORPORATION

<u>a West Virginia corporation</u>

By Counsel

Stephen L. Thompson, Esq. (WVSB #3751)

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Fax: (304) 342-6215 Counsel for Defendant

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Plaintiff,

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NORTHSTAR ENERGY CORPORATION, A West Virginia corporation,

Civil Action No. 15-C-405-3 Hon. James A. Matish, Judge Upon Motion To Refer Case To Business Court Division

Defendant.

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Stephen L. Thompson, do hereby certify that I have served the foregoing RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO REFER CASE TO BUSINESS COURT upon the following by depositing a true and exact copy thereof in envelopes, this 26th day of May, 2016, addressed as follows:

Lori A. Dawkins, Esq. Steptoe & Johnson 600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 1950 S Denver, CO 80202

Shawn A. Morgan, Esq. Steptoe & Johnson 400 White Oaks Boulevard Bridgeport, WV 26330

Hon. James A. Matish, Judge Harrison County Courthouse 301 West Main Street, Room 116 Clarksburg, WV 26301

Stephen L. Thompson